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CHRISTIE

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Introduction

SEVERAL attempts have been made by various members of the Christie family in America to write Geneologies and Histories of the family. Every undertaking of this character, of which the writer of this book has knowledge, has been rendered uninteresting because the authors have attempted to branch out laterally, thereby tending to confuse the reader.

This book has been written with the hope of its being of some service to lateral branches of the family but more particularly to preserve to my descendants a record which may be handed from generation to generation. This geneological record is particularly interesting from the fact that the author descended from the same ancestor Paternally and Maternally.

Several pages in back of this little volume have been left in blank, so as to enable any member of the Christie family to continue their lineage from any of the direct or lateral lines of descent.

WALTER CHRISTIE.

September 24, 1919.

CHRISTIE COAT OF ARMS

This is a copy made from the original Coat of Arms in the College of Heraldry, Edenboro, Scotland, and the right to bear this was conferred by Robert Bruce, on the Abbot Christinus, of the Monastery of Lendoree, who had been a comrade in arms with Bruce, at the victorious battle of Bannockburn, June 24, 1314.

It represents a mound or hill (Calvary) covered with the vine of immortelles supporting a cross and encircled by the motto, "Sit Vita Nomini Congrua,"—"Let the Life correspond with the name."

The Thistle and Myrtle indicate loyalty to Scotland, and faith in immortality. The name "Christinus" on the ribbon under the coat of arms, was afterwards added as an interpretation of the motto.

The name, at first given in derision as meaning "Belonging to or imitators of Christ, or Christlike," gave point to the Coat of Arms.

The first Cristy—Christy—Christi—Christie, that can be traced or that is known of, was, this Abbot, and he lived in

the days before the celibacy of the clergy was enforced upon the priesthood.

From his children four great branches of Christies have descended. In book entitled, "Geneological Memories of the Scottish House of Christie," by Rev. C. Rogers, it is stated that "As a surname Christy or Christie appears in Scotland so early as the Twelfth Century," and that "From the baptisimal records of Dumfermline in south-western Fifeshire, it would appear that there the Christie family had made settlements prior to the Reformation."

The first Christie ancestor in America was James Christie, who came to this country from Aberdeen, Scotland, in the year 1685.

He came with a number of other Scotchmen, dissenters driven out by religious persecution, or as others think because they were Royalist, and having supported the Stewarts, had to flee at their downfall, probably during the Revolution of 1688 when James II fled and William and Mary took the throne.

They sailed for America in the ship Caledonia intending, it is said, to land at New York, but were prevented by a storm which stranded them on the Jersey Coast.

Among the passengers with James Christie were the Tenents, who afterwards became famous in the history of the Presbyterian Church of New Jersey.

Note.—The above account of sailing of James Christie was taken from Cornelius Christie and C. Henry Demarest's record of the Christie family, while it agrees in the main with Mrs. Heidekoper's account, I doubt the correctness of dates, especially the date of departure from Scotland given as 1685.

One Mrs. Frederic Heidekoper, who has spend much time and money in research relating to the Christies, gives the following interesting account of the first Christie ancestor.

James Christie sailed from the port of Leith in the summer of 1698 on the ship Caledonia of the Paterson expedition to the Isthmus of Darien, to found a Scotch Colony to be named "Caledonia."

At Edinburgh he was in company with John Stewart of Stirling, who also sailed in the same expedition on the ship "Unicorn."

The third ship "St. Andrew" appears to have completed the number.

The Darien Colony increased to 1000 souls, but Tropics, Miasmi, Indians and Spaniards, were too much for the Scotchmen, who perished by hundreds. The remaining sailed away on the three ships, but most of them died on their terrible voyage and were food for sharks.

The Caledonia, the healthiest of the three ships, threw overboard 100 corpses before reaching Sandy Hook in August, 1699. On October 5, 1699, a letter was received in Scotland saying, "a few miserable men, hunger and fever written on their faces, had arrived in the Hudson."

Four months previously a second expendition sailed from Scotland amid great popular enthusiasm for "Caledonia," and found the colony vanished.

Mrs. Heidekoper's authority is an affidavit of James Christie. He was 82 years old when he signed his initials, for some one else signed his name, as in his will.

It is said he was educated but owing to infirmities of age may have been compelled to sign only his initials.

The tradition that he was a royalist and fled at the downfall of the cause of the Pretender in no wise conflicts with historical records.

The affidavit herein before mentioned reads as follows:

James Christie, of full age, maketh oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that he knew one John Stewart at Edinburgh in Scotland in the year 1698, then near or about — years of age, who was then shipt on board the ship "Unicorn" to the West Indies in order to settle, the said deponent being at the same place in company with said John Stewart, on board another ship called the "Caledonia," which said two ships made their course to the province of New York, and arrived sometime in the month of August, 1699.

And the said deponent sometime that fall found the above John Stewart in the Province of New Jersey, at a place called Hackensack, which John Stewart, the spring following, married to one Jemima DeMorest, daughter of one John DeMorest, and the said deponent about two years afterwards married the sister of said Jemima, another daughter of said John DeMorest, and the said deponent further says that the said John Stewart sometime in October 1703 moved from thence to a place called Appoquinimink, at which place the deponent was informed the said John Stewart died.

Note.—For an interesting account of the Darien Expedition read Macauley's History of England, vol. 5, Chapter 24.

Sworn before me this 20th day of November, 1752.

Jacob,
Justice of the Peace.

James I. C. Christey,
of .....

The above is a copy of an affidavit made by James I. C. Christey when James, son of John Stewart, started for Scotland to inherit his father's property.

He was taken ill and died in New York on the eve of departure.

1
JAMES CHRISTIE shortly after landing married Magdalena Demarest, Sept. 8, 1703, and settled at Schraalenburgh, N. J.

She was the daughter of an important Huguenot family that had previously settled in that vicinity. He died April 16, 1765 or 1768, aged about 96 years.

By this marriage there were four sons and at least two daughters. The sons were:

2 JOHN

2 WILLIAM Born Aug. 19, 1720.

2 DAVID

2 DANIEL Born Feb. 9, 1725.

2
WILLIAM J. CHRISTIE was born August 19, 1720. Died September 28, 1809.

On September 20, 1743, he married Catalynthe Demarest.

Their children were:

3 JAMES Born Aug. 26, 1744 (who became a captain in the Revolutionary army)

3 MARGARET Born Dec. 26, 1745

3 MAGDALENA Born Nov. 18, 1747

3 MARIA Born Jan. 24, 1750

3 PETER Born Mar. 25, 1752

3 JOHN Born May 7, 1754

3 CORNELIUS Born Dec. 25, 1755

3 JEMIMA Born Jan. 3, 1758

3 DAVID and 3 SOPHIA Twins Born Nov. 15, 1760

3 DANIEL

3 SALLY

3
PETER W. CHRISTIE was born March 25, 1752. Died December 25, 1843.

On or about 1774 he married Belatie Westervelt. Their children were:

4 WILLIAM Born May 6, 1776	4 CATALYNTHE Born Nov. 6, 1781	4 ROELF Born Oct. 1, 1783	4 DEBORAH
4 JACOBUS Born Mar. 25, 1787	4 DOWAH Born Mar. 20, 1791	4 JOHN Born Oct. 28, 1793	4 CORNELIUS Born Jan. 8, 1796
4 PETER Born Aug. 20, 1799	4 DAVID Born July 9, 1802		

4
ROELF P. CHRISTIE was born October 1, 1783. Died June 15, 1873.

On December 27, 1806, he married Catharine Westervelt. Their children were:

5 PETER Born Feb. 12, 1808	5 DOWAH Born Sept. 19, 1810	5 JANE Born Jan. 31, 1812	5 JAMES Born Aug. 7, 1815
5 BELINDA Born June 20, 1817	5 CORNELIUS Born Jan. 16, 1821		

5
CORNELIUS R. CHRISTIE was born January 16, 1821. Died August 12, 1894.

He married Ann Christie on March 28, 1844. Ann Christie died February 8, 1894. Their children were:

6 CHARLOTTE Born Jan. 31, 1845	6 ELLEN Born July 6, 1848	6 PETER NELSON Born Dec. 3, 1852	6 DAVID DEMAREST Born Apr. 22, 1856
6 WALTER Born Nov. 16, 1863			

6
WALTER CHRISTIE was born November 16, 1863. He married Maria Van Wagoner on December 16, 1885. Died ..... Their children were:

7 RALPH Born Aug. 12, 1887	7 ARTHUR Born Oct. 1, 1889	7 J. G. CARLISLE Born Dec. 1, 1891	7 ALFRED Born Dec. 19, 1893
7 ELSIE Born Sept. 14, 1895	7 CLYDE Born Oct. 7, 1897	7 CORNELIUS Born Dec. 4, 1899	

1
James Christie married Magdalena Demarest September 8, 1703, at least two daughters and the following sons were born:

2	2	2	2
John	William Born Aug. 19, 1720	David	DANIEL Born Feb. 9, 1725

2
Daniel Christie was born February 9, 1725; married Feitje Demarest June 22, 1745. Their children were:

3	3	3	3
James Born May 25, 1746	Margaret Born Sept. 27, 1747	Lena Born Mar. 21, 1752	Magdalena Born Sept. 19, 1754
3	3	3	3
James Born May 27, 1757	Maria Born Mar. 5, 1759	Jacobus Born Feb. 19, 1767	JOHN Born May 29, 1769

3
John was born May 29, 1769; married Helena Banta February 17, 1791, and died July 14, 1836. Their children were:

4	4	4	4
SAMUEL Born July 23, 1793	Daniel Born Sept. 19, 1796	Fytje Born Jan. 20, 1801	John Born Mar. 27, 1805
4 Tyna Born July 14, 1809			

4
Samuel was born July 23, 1793; married Maria Demarest on June 2, 1814. Died June 28, 1861. Children were:

5	5	5	5
Ellen Born July 24, 1818	ANN Born Jan. 7, 1822	Euphemia Born July 14, 1829	Margaret Born July 29, 1832

On March 28, 1844, Ann Christie was married to Cornelius R. Christie and died on February 8, 1894.

Lest the descendants of the family directly and laterally should lose knowledge of the dwelling sites, of their ancestry, a short description with cut of the dwelling now standing on or near the original sites is given.

1
JAMES CHRISTIE owned the farm long known as the John H. Anderson farm at Dumont, N. J., located on the east side of the Schraalenburgh Road, also known as Washington Avenue.

The dwelling was a small, one and one-half story brown stone building, and stood directly back of the building, the cut of which follows:

William J. Christie owned the farm directly opposite that of his father, located on the west side of Washington Avenue at Dumont, N. J., known as the Richard Van Buskirk farm, and the old house stood on the same spot on which the present building stands, the cut of which follows:

Peter W. Christie owned the farm located on the west side of Washington Avenue at Bergenfield, N. J., midway between Bergenfield and Dumont and known as the Stumpp and Walter trial grounds.

The building was a medium sized stone building located partly on the exact spot, and partly west of the spot where the building stands, the cut of which follows:

Roelf Christie owned the farm located on the north side of Church Street at Bergenfield, N. J., beginning at the brook and extending easterly to the West Shore R. R. tracks, which he purchased March 31, 1808.

The house he erected was the westerly half of the present building as it stands today. It is the only Christie original homestead built entirely of frame.

Cornelius Christie inherited this farm and dwelling, and enlarged the dwelling to its present size.

Walter Christie inherited this farm and dwelling and remodeled the interior, placed dormer windows in the roof, and placed a porch along the entire front during the summer of 1895, and occupied it till December 24, 1906.

This is the most interesting dwelling of any, for in this farm house dwelt four generations of Christies. In this dwelling were born all the children of Roelf, with the exception of his oldest child Peter, all the children of Cornelius R. Christie and all the children of Walter Christie. A cut of the same follows:

Walter Christie during the year 1906 built a new house on the north side of Church Street at Bergenfield, N. J., about 500 feet east of the old homestead of his grandfather, Roelf Christie, on lands of the old farm acquired in 1808, and has continuously occupied same to date. A cut of the dwelling follows:

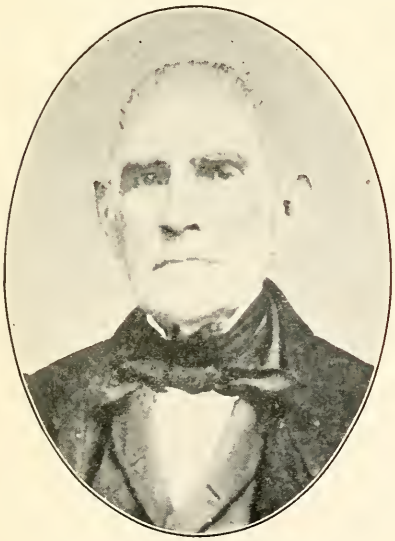
1
James Christie.

The tradition is that the first Christie who came to this country taught school and knit whilst he taught. His occupation during his life at Schraalenburgh, however, must have been generally that of a farmer.

2
William J. Christie was a farmer and a brewer.

He brewed the beer for neighborhood consumption, and the story is told of him that after the Revolutionary war, when neighbors used to call at the brew house for their supply, he would serve the patriots first and compel the tories to wait until all others had been supplied.

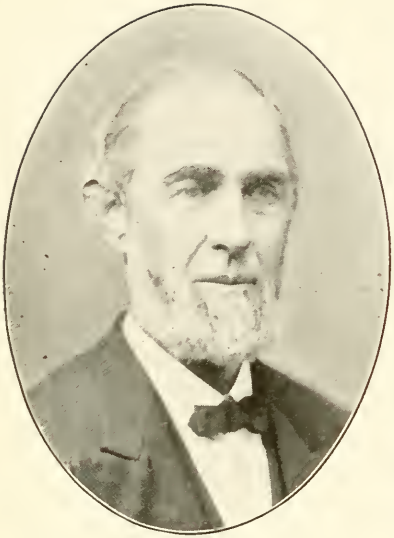
3
Peter W. Christie was a farmer and a tailor, making the clothing for the neighborhood beaux.



Roelf Christie.

4
Roelf Christie was a farmer and a leather tanner.

His tannery was located on the east bank of the brook on the bend just north of the old homestead.



CORNELIUS R. CHRISTIE.

5

CORNELIUS R. CHRISTIE was a farmer and a harness maker. His shop was operated for 40 years and stood just east of the old homestead.

The outbreak of the Civil war, similtaneous with the introduction of harness making machinery, led him to devote his later years to intensive farming, in which he became very successful.

During the year of 1870 an agitation having been started for the building of a railroad through this section, he, together with Conrad N. Jordan of New York City, E. K. Alburtus and Clemant Alburtus of Jersey City, William A. Moore of Teaneck and others organized and financed, the Ridgefield Park Railway Co., and built a line of railway extending from Ridgefield Park, N. J., to Tappan, N. Y., completing same and opening it for traffic early in 1873.

The venture proved a failure, and was reorganized as the Jersey City and Albany Railway Company, and the line was extended to Haverstraw, N. Y., and again failed.

The road was again later opened through an arrangement with the New York, Ontario and Western Railway Co., by

which they were to furnish the crews and rolling stock, and divide the profit with the company owning the road.

Although the owners together with other liberal patrons of the road raised a fund to insure the Ontario and Western Railway Co. against loss in operating revenues, they in 1876 surrendered their contract and ceased operations.

Later the roadbed was sold under foreclosure proceedings and purchased by Delos Culver, acting as agent for George M. Pullman for the sum of $19,000.00.

The Pullman and New York, Ontario and Western interests then jointly built the terminal at Weehawken. The Pullman interests extending the West Shore Railway to Buffalo, N. Y., and the New York, Ontario and Western extending its railway to Oswego, N. Y., to compete with the New York Central Railroads, opening the roads for traffic during the early part of the Summer of 1882.

Had it not been for his (Cornelius R. Christie) faith in the ultimate success of the original early enterprise it is doubtful if the West Shore and Ontario and Western railways would ever have been built through this section.

So sanguine and enthusiastic was he that he gave his entire fortune in promoting this enterprise.

He lived to see the West Shore, and Ontario and Western railways completed and operated, and often remarked, that though he had lived to see a realization of his hopes, the fruition came too late in his life to be of any financial aid to him, but that posterity would reap the benefit of his efforts and sacrifices which was gratifying.

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WALTER CHRISTIE.

6
WALTER CHRISTIE was a farmer in early life, later embarking in the fire insurance and real estate business in all its branches. It is remarkable that for six generations in direct succession the occupation of this family was chiefly farming, the farms supplying the everyday needs of the household, the trades being used as a means of supplying funds for the extraordinary expenses such as taxes, repairs to buildings, the erection of new buildings, the education of the children and the laying aside of funds for the proverbial rainy day and for old age.

MILITARY

2
WILLIAM J. CHRISTIE was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and was of considerable service to the cause he espoused.

He served under his son, Capt. James Christie, who was a noted character of great executive ability.

7
J. G. CARLISLE CHRISTIE.
Enlisted as candidate at the Officers' Training Camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., on August 27, 1917.
Commissioned a First Lieutenant U. S. A. at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., on November 8, 1917.

On December 22, 1917, was assigned as squadron officer of the 209th Aero Construction Squadron, which was on February 1, 1918, reorganized and changed and designated as the 505th Aero Squadron.

Was commanding officer from May 4, 1918, to November 5, 1918.

Was Construction officer of Aviation Camp, at Waco, Texas. Was Squadron Adjutant.

Honorably discharged at the Air Service Depot, Garden City, L. I., N. Y., on January 28, 1919.

7
ALFRED CHRISTIE.

Enlisted June 28, 1918, and assigned to the Medical Department of the Base Hospital at Camp Merritt, Dumont, N. J. Honorably discharged January 14, 1919.

7
CLYDE CHRISTIE.

Enlisted and inducted into the Naval Aviation Section of the Student Army Training Corps at Cornell University on October 4, 1918.

Granted the rating of an Apprentice Seaman.

Received station rating of First Class Boatswain's Mate and given command of two barracks and one company of men.

Released from active duty December 12, 1918, though retained in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force.

7
CORNELIUS CHRISTIE.

Enlisted in the U. S. Navy, November 22, 1918.

Was given a rating as Apprentice Seaman and assigned to duty at the Naval Station at Yorktown, Va.

Released from active duty February 19, 1919, though retained in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL

In civil and political matters several members of the family have been conspicuous.

2
WILLIAM J. CHRISTIE represented the Township of Harrington as Chosen Freeholder from May 12, 1779, to May 1782, and again during the years 1785 and 1786.

5
CORNELIUS R. CHRISTIE served Palisades Township as Township Committeeman for three years.

6
WALTER CHRISTIE served as Township Clerk of Palisades Township from March 1886 to March 1889, and as Township Collector from March 1889 to March 1896, and as Chosen Freeholder from June 5, 1899 to September 21, 1908, when he resigned.

Was one of the original incorporators of the Borough of Bergenfield and was elected as a member of the first Borough

Council, serving from 1894, the year of incorporation, till 1897.

In 1897 was elected Mayor, serving one term, 1897 and 1898, declining a renomination at expiration of the term.

Was elected a member of the Board of Education of the Borough of Bergenfield, July 20, 1894, and elected President of the Board for the years 1895 and 1896, declining a renomination in 1897.

Was re-elected to the Board March 20, 1900, serving continuously for seven years.

Was elected Clerk of the Board for the years 1903 to 1906, inclusive, and during the year 1904 organized the first Free Public School Library, raising the necessary funds by a series of entertainments, the talent being given free as a special favor.

Succeeded in arousing public interest in the needs of the district for more modern and larger school facilities, and as a result the Washington School was erected during the year 1905.

In 1907 declined a renomination to the Board.

Was elected as Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 1906 and re-elected in 1907, declining a renomination during the year 1908.

On January 1, 1909, was elected County Collector and continued in office till January 1, 1916. He served as a Commissioner on new County buildings, which constructed the new county court house and the new jail, which were built during the years 1910 and 1911, serving also as Secretary to

the commission and was largely instrumental in securing these commodious structures, in spite of a storm of criticism and abuse.

Is a Director of the Palisades Trust and Guaranty Co., having served in that capacity for the past 17 years.

During the month of February 1910 together with others organized the Bergenfield Building and Loan Association, and at that time was elected Treasurer, serving continuously from then to date.

On May 15, 1919, together with others, organized the Bergenfield National Bank, and was elected to the Presidency of it.

Educational

When we consider that under the various forms of Colonial and State governments, no free system of education existed, and furthermore that as a State, New Jersey did not adopt the Public Free School system until the year 1871, it must be granted beyond dispute, that the Christies were liberal in their ideas and devoted to the cause of education, because of the fact that each and every one of the Christie ancestors were educated to the extent that they were able to transact their private business, and in the discharge of public duties, showed rare ability without exception.

Had they not been devoted to the cause of education, they would not have expended the comparatively large sums of money necessary to pay for the private instruction of their uniformly large families of children. Descendants of James Christie were graduates of Yale. Two sons of Walter Christie, J. C. Carlisle and Clyde, are graduates of Cornell University.

Religious

In religious life it must be inferred that the first Christie was a Presbyterian, but having settled in a community composed overwhelmingly of Holland Dutch settlers, the Christies, together with the Demarests (Huguenots), joined with the Reformed Dutch Church.

This was easy because the Dutch church was and is Calvanistic in doctrine and Presbyterial in its government.

The first Christie ancestor signed the original roll of membership for organization of the Reformed Dutch Church at Schraalenburgh (known as the Old South Church), in 1724, and contributed towards the erection of the first church building which stood about 200 feet east of the present structure, the spot being marked by a marble slab recently placed in the northwest corner of the old foundation. In direct succession James[1], William J.[2], Peter W.[3] and Roelf P.[4] attended the services and worshiped in the first church building.

Old South Church.

In the present edifice the second church, erected in 1799 and rebuilt and enlarged in 1867, the cut of which appears above, six generations of Christies worshipped in direct succession, viz: WILLIAM[2] J., PETER[3] W., ROELF[4] P., CORNELIUS[5] R., WALTER[6], and all the children of Walter.

In direct succession JAMES[1], WILLIAM[2] J., PETER[3] W., ROELF[4] P., CORNELIUS[5] R., and WALTER[6], have served as Elders in this church organization.

Capt. JAMES[2] CHRISTIE, a son of WILLIAM CHRISTIE, was chairman of the building committee which erected the church built in 1799 and CORNELIUS R. CHRISTIE served on the committee which had charge of the enlargement and rebuilding of the edifice in 1867.

Thus it is plain that as a family the Christies have been loyal to religion and their church.

It is remarkable that seven generations have worshipped in direct succession under the ministrations of one and the same church organization. In the cemetery back of the church lie buried the five ancestors, also a sister and two brothers and children of WALTER CHRISTIE, making seven generations in direct succession interred therein.

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